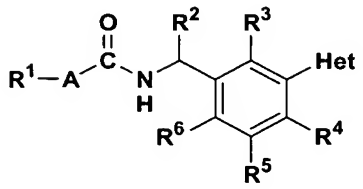
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of straight or branched chain C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino or di(C_{1-4} alkyl) amino, pyridinyl, pyrrodidinyl, piperidinyl, 2-thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, indenyl, benzofuran, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and phenyl optionally substituted with substituent independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and trifluoromethoxy;

A is –CH=CH-, 1,1-cyclopropyl, or $-(CH_2)_n-$;

R^2 is C_{1-4} alkyl, CF_3 or hydroxymethyl;

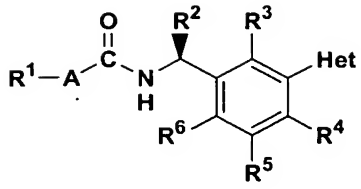
R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 each are independently hydrogen or fluoro;

n is an integer of 0 to 4, inclusive;

Het is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrazolyl and triazolyl optionally substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, amino and dimethylaminomethyl;

provided that when Het is pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl, then A is not -CH=CH-.

2. The compound of claim 1 having the Formula Ic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



Ic

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of straight or branched chain C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino or di(C_{1-4} alkyl) amino, pyridinyl, pyrrodidinyl, piperidinyl, 2-thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, indenyl, benzofuran, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and phenyl optionally substituted with substituent independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and trifluoromethoxy;

A is –CH=CH-, 1,1-cyclopropyl, or $-(CH_2)_n-$;

R^2 is methyl or hydroxymethyl;

R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 each are independently hydrogen or fluoro;

n is an integer of 0 to 4, inclusive;

Het is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrazolyl and triazolyl optionally substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, amino and dimethylaminomethyl;

provided that when Het is pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl, then A is not -CH=CH-.

3. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

(*S*)-3-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-N-[1-(3-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-acrylamide;

(*S*)-3-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-N-[1-(3-thiazol-2-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-acrylamide;

(*S*)-3-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-N-[1-(3-pyrazol-1-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-acrylamide;

(*S*)-3-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-N-[1-(3-imidazol-1-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-acrylamide;

(S)-4-phenyl-N-[1-(3-pyridin-3-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-butyramide;

(S)-N-[1-(3-pyridin-3-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-benzamide;

(S)-1H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid [1-(3-pyridin-3-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide;

(S)-N-[1-(3-imidazol-1-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-phenyl-acrylamide;

(S)-N-[1-(3-oxazol-5-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-phenyl-acrylamide;
(S)-3-phenyl-N-[1-(3-thiazol-2-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-acrylamide;
(S)-3-phenyl-N-[1-(3-pyrazol-1-yl-phenyl)-ethyl]-acrylamide; and
(S)-benzofuran-2-carboxylic acid {1-[3-(6-fluoro-pyridin-3-yl)-phenyl]-ethyl}-amide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disorders responsive to opening of KCNQ potassium channels comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or diluent.

5. A method for the treatment of disorders responsive to opening of the KCNQ potassium channels in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1.

6. The method of claims 5 wherein said disorders are acute and chronic pain, migraine, neuropathic pain, bipolar disorders, convulsions, mania, epilepsy, anxiety, depression and neurodegenerative disorders.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said disorder is migraine.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said disorder is neuropathic pain.